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SOME FAMOUS MISSOURIANS

Missouri State Archives

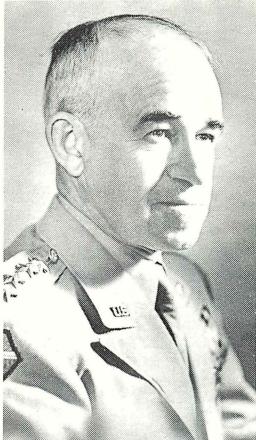


THOMAS HART BENTON

(Born 1889; died 1975)

Born in Neosho, Benton was destined to become a renowned artist. Two of his best-known works appear in mural form at the State Capitol in Jefferson City and the Truman Library in Independence. The Capitol mural is a panorama of Missouri history; the Truman Library mural depicts Independence's role in the opening of the West.

Missouri State Archives

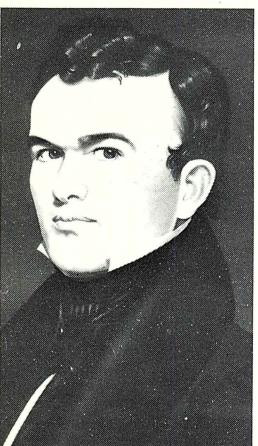


OMAR N. BRADLEY

(Born 1895; died 1981)

Bradley, born near Moberly, commanded the largest American force ever united under one man's leadership. Known as "the G.I.'s general" during World War II, Bradley became the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after the war. As a five-star general, Bradley served 69 years on active duty (until his death in 1981) — longer than any other soldier in U.S. history.

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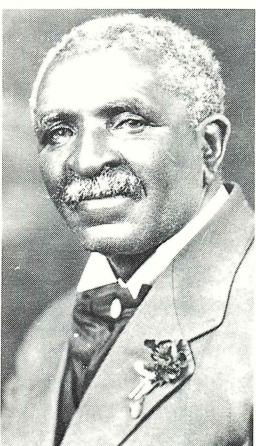


GEORGE CALEB BINGHAM

(Born 1811; died 1879)

Considered by many to be the greatest American-born artist, Bingham is especially well-known for his portraits and his paintings of life on the Missouri frontier. He also had a long career of public service, including election to the Missouri legislature and service as state treasurer and adjutant general.

State Historical Society of Missouri



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Born 1864; died 1943)

Born a slave near Diamond, Carver overcame tremendous obstacles to become one of America's greatest scientists. He is best remembered for his practical research, helping farmers make a better living from marginal soil. A national monument in southwest Missouri preserves the area where Carver was born and spent his childhood.

State Historical Society of Missouri

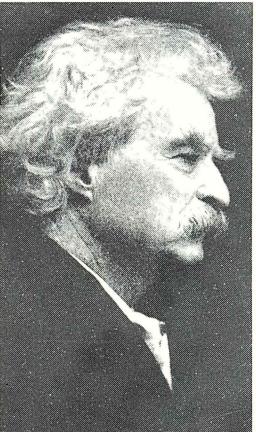


DANIEL BOONE

(Born 1734; died 1820)

Truly a legend in his own time, Boone was a pioneer, scout, Indian fighter and, in later years, a Missourian. He came to Missouri in 1799 and served as a local magistrate. From the home at Defiance which he built with his son Nathan, he explored much of the state. He died in the Defiance home in 1820.

Missouri State Archives



SAMUEL CLEMENS

(Born 1835; died 1910)

Growing up in Hannibal, Clemens watched riverboats on the Mississippi. From riverboat jargon he took a name — Mark Twain — that would become famous worldwide. One of America's greatest writers, Mark Twain is remembered today at his boyhood home in Hannibal and at his nearby birthplace.

Prepared by Roy D. Blunt, Secretary of State

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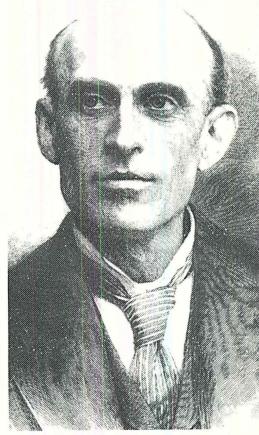


WALT DISNEY

(Born 1901; died 1966)

Disney, the well-known cartoonist and creator of animated films, grew up in Marceline and Kansas City, Missouri. Disney created the first animated cartoon with sound, "Steamboat Willie," which introduced the world to Mickey Mouse. Disney's first animated feature film was "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," which was followed by such classics as "Pinocchio" and "Cinderella."

State Historical Society of Missouri

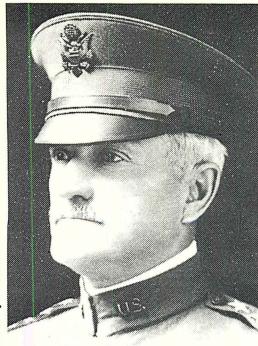


EUGENE FIELD

(Born 1850; died 1895)

Field, born in St. Louis, created some of the world's best-loved children's poetry. His works included "Little Boy Blue" and "Wynken, Blyken, and Nod." Known as "The Children's Poet," Field is memorialized by hundreds of schoolhouses across the country, named in his honor. He also was a newspaper writer and columnist, but is best remembered for his poignant, sentimental childhood verse.

State Historical Society of Missouri



JOHN J. PERSHING

(Born 1860; died 1948)

Pershing, born near Laclede, is the only American to be named General of the Armies (a rank which carries six-star status) during his lifetime. His distinguished career included graduation from West Point, service in the Spanish-American War and in the campaign against Mexican bandit Pancho Villa. In World War I, he commanded the American Expeditionary Force in Europe.

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JOSEPH SMITH

(Born 1805; died 1844)

Smith, founder of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) movement, settled with his followers in Independence in 1831. Because of certain religious and social beliefs, however, hostility toward Smith's followers began within a year. Following the Expulsion Act of 1837, Smith and his exiles fled to Illinois.

State Historical Society of Missouri

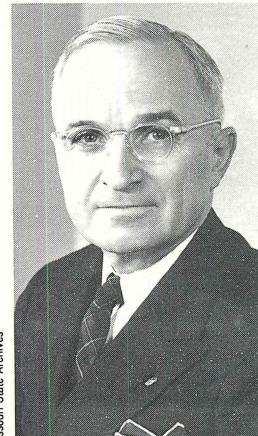


JESSE JAMES

(Born 1847; died 1882)

James, the notorious outlaw, was born at Kearney. His home and gravesite are there. The best-known site associated with Missouri's most infamous citizen is the St. Joseph home where he was shot and killed in 1882. The small frame home stands today on the grounds of the Patee House Museum in St. Joseph.

Missouri State Archives



HARRY S TRUMAN

(Born 1884; died 1972)

Truman, born in Lamar, served as 33rd president of the United States, from 1945 to 1949. His birthplace is now a state historic site. Truman is remembered as "the man from Independence." His boyhood homes, the summer White House, his first courtroom, the Truman Library and Museum, and his gravesite all are in this area.

The Kansas City Times



SCOTT JOPLIN

(Born 1868; died 1917)

Joplin was born in Texas, but spent most of his life in Missouri. He was a pianist who helped develop the style of music which would become known as "ragtime." The son of a former slave, Joplin composed such well-known works as "The Maple Leaf Rag" and "The Entertainer".

Missouri State Archives



LAURA INGALLS WILDER

(Born 1867; died 1957)

Wilder won fame as the author of *Little House on the Prairie* and seven other "Little House" books. Although born in Wisconsin, she was living at Mansfield in the Missouri Ozarks when she began her writing career in 1932. All her books were written at Rocky Ridge Farm in Mansfield, where she lived until her death in 1957.